



#61-291
R2

Norfolk Southern Corporation
Law Department
Three Commercial Place
Norfolk, Virginia 23510-9242



Sandra J. Gorby
Assistant to
Sr. Vice President - Law

Writer's Direct Dial Number
(757) 629-2804
Fax (757) 533-4872
E-mail sandra.gorby@nscorp.com

September 23, 2003

VIA FAX – 610-793-4396

Mr. Troy Brady
Surface Transportation Board

Re: STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 240X), Norfolk Southern Railway
Company – Abandonment – Between Gastonia and Dallas (Gebo) in
Gaston County, North Carolina – Petition for Exemption

Dear Mr. Brady:

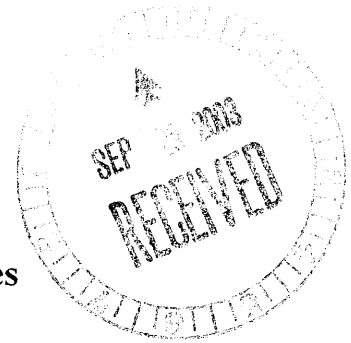
Confirming our telephone conversation today, enclosed are additional agency
responses that have been received concerning the above abandonment proceeding.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need further information.

Sincerely,

Sandra J. Gorby

cc: Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office
David L. S. Brook, Administrator

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Lisbeth C. Evans, Secretary
Jeffrey J. Crow, Deputy Secretary
Office of Archives and History

Division of Historical Resources

September 10, 2003

James R. Paschall
Norfolk Southern Railroad
Law Department
Three Commercial Place
Norfolk, VA 23510-9241

Re: Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 240X), Norfolk Southern Railway Company
Abandonment between Gastonia and Dallas/Gebo, Gaston County, ER03-2006

Dear Mr. Paschall:

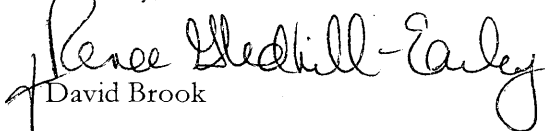
Thank you for your letter of July 21, 2003, concerning the above project.

We have conducted a review of the proposed undertaking and are aware of no historic resources which would be affected by the project. Therefore, we have no comment on the undertaking as proposed.

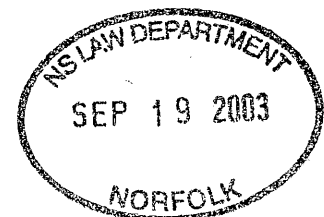
The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919/733-4763. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above-referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,


David Brook

cc: David Foster, NCDOT Rail Division



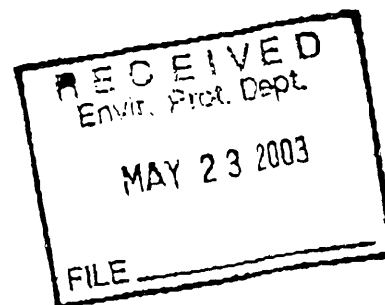
www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us

	Location	Mailing Address	Telephone/Fax
ADMINISTRATION	507 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC	4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4617	(919) 733-4763 • 733-8653
RESTORATION	515 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC	4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4617	(919) 733-6547 • 715-4801
SURVEY & PLANNING	515 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC	4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4617	(919) 733-6545 • 715-4801



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
National Geodetic Survey
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3282

MAY 19 2003



LGW

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Rutson:

The area in question on the map with the Environmental and Historic Reports for the proposed rail line abandonment of Norfolk Southern Railway Company for 5.0 miles of rail line between Gastonia and Dallas/Gebo, Gaston County, North Carolina, STB Docket No. - Not Available, has been reviewed within the areas of National Geodetic Survey (NGS) responsibility and expertise and in terms of the impact of the proposed actions on NGS activities and projects.

As a result of this review, 9 geodetic station markers have been identified that may be affected by the proposed abandonment; a listing of these markers is enclosed. Additional information about these station markers can be obtained via the Internet or NGS CD-ROM. A fact sheet for these two data retrieval methods is enclosed. If there are any planned activities which will disturb or destroy these markers, NGS requires not less than 90 days notification in advance of such activities in order to plan for their relocation.

If further information is needed for this geodetic marker, contact Mr. Frank C. Maida. His address is NOAA, N/NGS2, Room 8736, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3282, telephone: 301-713-3198, fax: 301-713-4324, e-mail: Frank.Maida@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Snay
Chief, Spatial Reference System Division

Enclosures

cc: N/NGS1 - G. Mitchell
K. R. Miller, L. G. Western Norfolk Southern
G. W. Thompson



NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY

IN GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

FROM GASTON TO DALLAS/GEBO

STB DOCKET NO. - NOT AVAILABLE

9 GEODETIC CONTROL MARKS IN THE PROPOSED ABANDONMENT AREA

PID	DESIGNATION	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
FA0797	RV 81	N351551	W0811041
FA3124	GASTONIA BASE 1933 RM 1	N351552	W0811057
FA3123	GASTONIA BASE 1933	N351552	W0811101
FA0861	C 158	N351626	W0811055
FA0860	B 158	N351710	W0811113
FA0859	A 158	N351751	W0811047
FA0858	Z 157	N351806	W0811025
FA0857	PTS 1 USGS	N351854	W0811024
FA0856	Y 157	N351929	W0811024



National Geodetic Survey - News Flash!



GEODETTIC DATA AVAILABLE FREE ON THE INTERNET

Are you interested in getting the most current position, height, and descriptive information for all the geodetic control points in the National Spatial Reference System? Are you interested in getting this information immediately, free of cost, and whenever you want it? With an Internet connection, this information is yours to download.

The National Geodetic Survey's (NGS) data sheet contains position, height, and descriptive information for approximately 750,000 control points throughout the United States. The data sheet provides:

- ▶ The geodetic coordinates and the orthometric height for each point
- ▶ The horizontal and vertical datums on which the information is based
- ▶ State plane coordinates and Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates
- ▶ Modeled geoid height, ellipsoidal height, modeled gravity, and Laplace correction
- ▶ A description of the station's location and how to reach it

To obtain this information, set your Web browser to
http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/products_services.html

For more information contact:

NOAA, National Geodetic Survey, N/NGS12

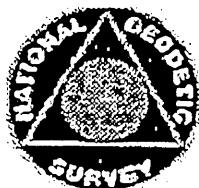
1315 East-West Highway, Station 09202

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Telephone: (301) 713-3242; Fax: (301) 713-4172

Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Eastern Time

<http://www.ngs.noaa.gov>



NGS: Tying America Together

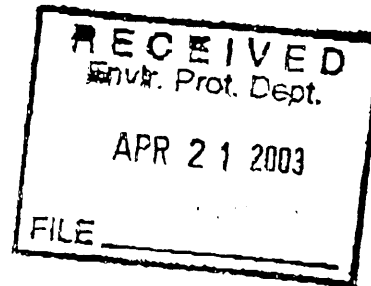


United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Asheville Field Office
160 Zillicoa Street
Asheville, North Carolina 28801

April 17, 2003



LGW

Mr. K. R. Miller
Director of Environmental Operations
Norfolk Southern Corporation
110 Franklin Road, S.E.
Roanoke, Virginia 24042-0013

Dear Mr. Miller:

Subject: Norfolk Southern Railway Company's Proposed Main Line Abandonment of 5.0 Miles of Rail Line Located between Mileposts HG-47.0 and HG-52.0, between Gastonia and Dallas/Gebo, Gaston County, North Carolina

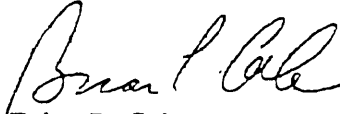
We received your letter dated March 24, 2003, in which you requested our comments on the proposed abandonment of the subject railway segments. We originally commented on this project in a letter dated June 28, 2001, to Mr. David Wilson of Marshall Miller & Associates. The following comments are provided in accordance with the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661-667e); the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 703); and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (Act).

As we stated in our original comments, we are particularly concerned that the endangered Schweinitz's sunflower (*Helianthus schweinitzii*) and the Georgia aster (*Aster georgianus*), a candidate for federal listing, could occur along the railroad right-of-way. Although our records indicate no known locations of these species in the immediate project area, it is unlikely that the area has ever been surveyed for either species. We recommend surveying the area for them prior to any further planning or on-the-ground activities to ensure that no adverse impacts occur to these species.

We are also still particularly interested in the removal of culverts or other structures that may be blocking aquatic species passage or otherwise altering stream hydrology. Any stream/wetland crossing structure should be removed, where possible, and the original contours of the stream/wetland restored.

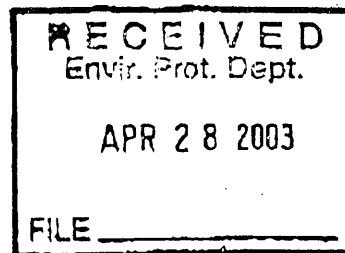
We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments and request that you continue to keep us informed as to the progress of this project. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Allen Ratzlaff of our staff at 828/258-3939, Ext. 229. In any future correspondence concerning this project, please reference our Log Number 4-2-01-481.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian P. Cole". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" being more prominent than the last name "Cole".

Brian P. Cole
State Supervisor

LGW

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WILMINGTON DISTRICT

Action Id. 200330663

County Gaston

NO DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED

Property owner **Norfolk Southern Corporation, Att'n: Mr. K.R. Miller**
110 Franklin Rd., S.E.
Roanoke, VA 24042-0013

Telephone

Size and Location of project (water body, road name/number, town, etc.):

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS) Proposed Main Line Abandonment of 5.0 Miles of Rail Line located between Milepost HG-47.0 and Milepost HG-52.0 (Gastonia to Dallas/Gebo, NC).

Description of Activity:

NS proposes to abandon use of 5.0 miles of rail line from Gastonia to Dallas/Gebo, NC. NS does not intend to either appreciably remove or alter the contour of the roadbed underlying the rail line to be abandoned. There are no plans to undertake in-stream work or affect any wetland areas in association with the project.

Your work as described above does not require Department of the Army authorization for the following reason(s):

- ☐ There are no jurisdictional waters or wetlands within the boundaries of the project as described above. This determination is effective for five years from the date of this document.
- ☒ The proposed project will not impact jurisdictional waters or wetlands.
- ☐ The proposed project is exempt from Department of the Army regulations.
- ☐ This project is under the linear footage/acreage threshold for notification to us. Therefore, no written authorization is required. The project is still, however, subject to the conditions listed under Nationwide Permit No. *

(Specify)

Any changes in the described work resulting in impacts to jurisdictional waters or wetlands or any new work in jurisdictional waters or wetlands outside the area described above must be coordinated with the Corps of Engineers prior to commencement. Please contact the Regulatory Official specified below.

For any activity within the twenty coastal counties, before beginning work, you must contact the N.C. Division of Coastal Management at telephone (919) 733-2293 to discuss any required State permit authorization.

This Department of the Army determination does not relieve the property owner of the responsibility to obtain any other required Federal, State, or local approvals/permits.

Date: April 25, 2003

Corps Regulatory Official **Steve Chapin**

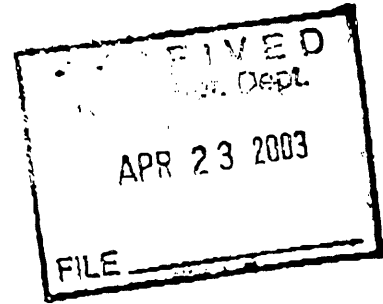
Telephone No. (828) 271-7980

LGW

*City of GASTONIA**ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT*

April 21, 2003

Mr. K. R. Miller
Director Environmental Operations
Norfolk Southern Corporation
Environmental Protection
110 Franklin Road, SE
Roanoke, Virginia 24042-0013



Dear Mr. Miller:

The City is in receipt of your letter to Mayor Jennifer Stultz, dated March 24, 2003, concerning the abandonment of the Norfolk Southern track from Milepost HG-47.0 in Gastonia to Milepost HG-52.0 in Dallas and offers the following comments.

Recommend that the rails, crossing materials, railroad signalization, and signing be removed at all highway/railway intersections along the entire length of the abandoned track, with appropriate repairs to roadways.

Recommend evaluation of the conversion of the rail corridor to a "Rails to Trails" pathway for the entire length of the proposed abandonment.

It is requested that the City of Gastonia be advised of the progress of this abandonment request and be given the opportunity to comment as the abandonment process affects the City.

If you have any questions or need further information concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (704) 866-6765.

Yours very truly,


DONALD K. LOWE
City Traffic Engineer

cc: Jennifer T. Stultz, Mayor
Edward C. Munn, City Manager
J. Philip Bombardier, Asst. City Manager - Operations
Felix A. Pruitt, Director of Engineering/City Engineer
Debby P. Key, Project Administrator
Jack L. Kiser, Director of Planning

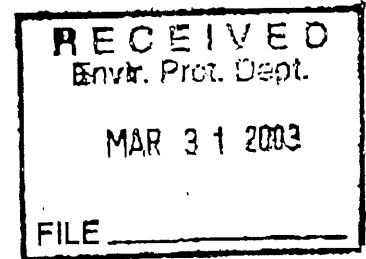
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION
SERVICE

1303 CHERRYVILLE HWY
DALLAS, NC 28034
PH: (704) 922-2159

March 28, 2003

Norfolk Southern Corporation
Environmental Protection
110 Franklin Road, S. E.
Roanoke, Virginia 24042-0013

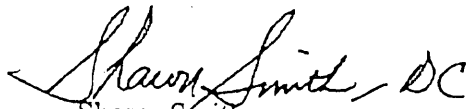


Subject: Norfolk Southern Railway Company Proposed Main Line Abandonment of 5.0
Miles of Rail Line Located between Milepost HG-47.0 and Milepost HG-52.0
from Gastonia to Dallas/Gebo, NC

I have reviewed the Environmental Report on the Proposed Rail Line Abandonment. The environmental impacts as it relates to Agriculture are minimal to none. In your analysis, item (3) three Land Use, section (ii) Prime Agriculture Lands you have stated, "No effects on any prime agricultural land are anticipated as a result of the abandonment." Once I performed a more in depth study of the proposed right of way, I found that there would be "No Effects" on any prime agriculture land.

However, I do express concern as it relates to several issues at hand. Water quality, air quality, transportation, and wildlife are resources that we address on a daily basis. We are in an area that is experiencing overwhelming growth. We must have continued research and future projections as to how abandoning this railway will effect the growing community.

Thank you for allowing me to provide comments. Please feel free to contact me if you need more information 704-922-2159.


Shawn Smith
District Conservationist
USDA-NRCS

Gastonia to Dallas / Gebo, NC

March 26, 2003 2:00 PM

Town of Dallas – Steve Miller - Mr. Miller asked how long the abandonment would take. NS EPD responded this has historically been variable; the request for abandonment is filed with the Surface Transportation Board, and the Board then grants it, denies it, or requests more information...

Mr. Miller MADE NO COMMENT,

Gastonia to Dallas / Gebo, NC

April 2, 2003

NC Div. of Coastal Management – Doug Huggett (sp.?) *NO COMMENTS*